



Witnesses to the Savior: Anna

Luke 2:21-35

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Christmas Day

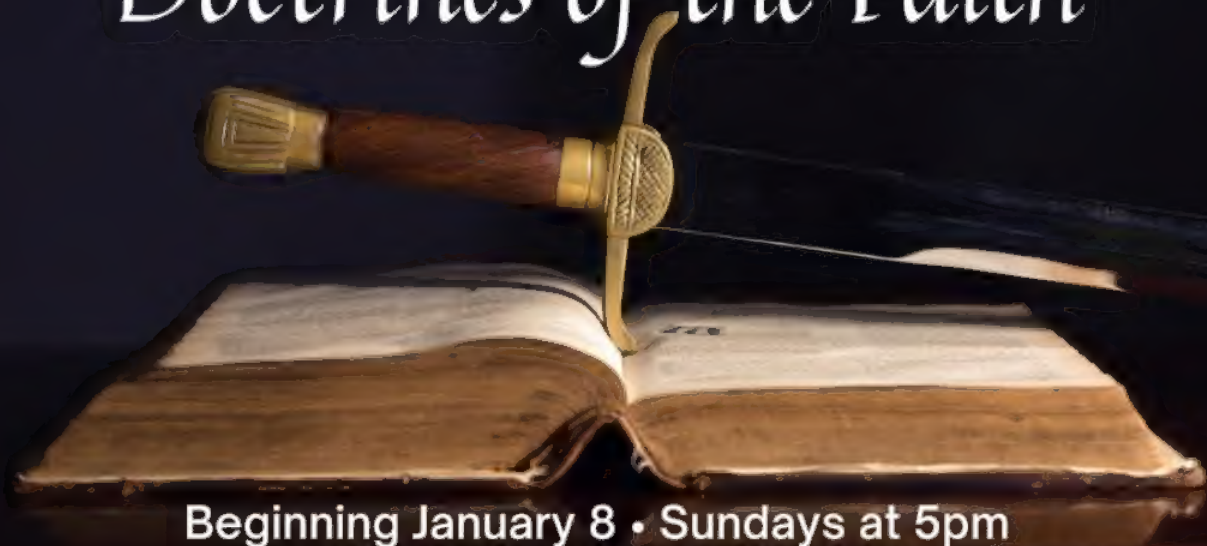
Worship with Your Family
10:30 AM

where in the **WORLD?**



JANUARY 8

Doctrines of the Faith



Beginning January 8 • Sundays at 5pm
broadviewchurch.com/doctrines

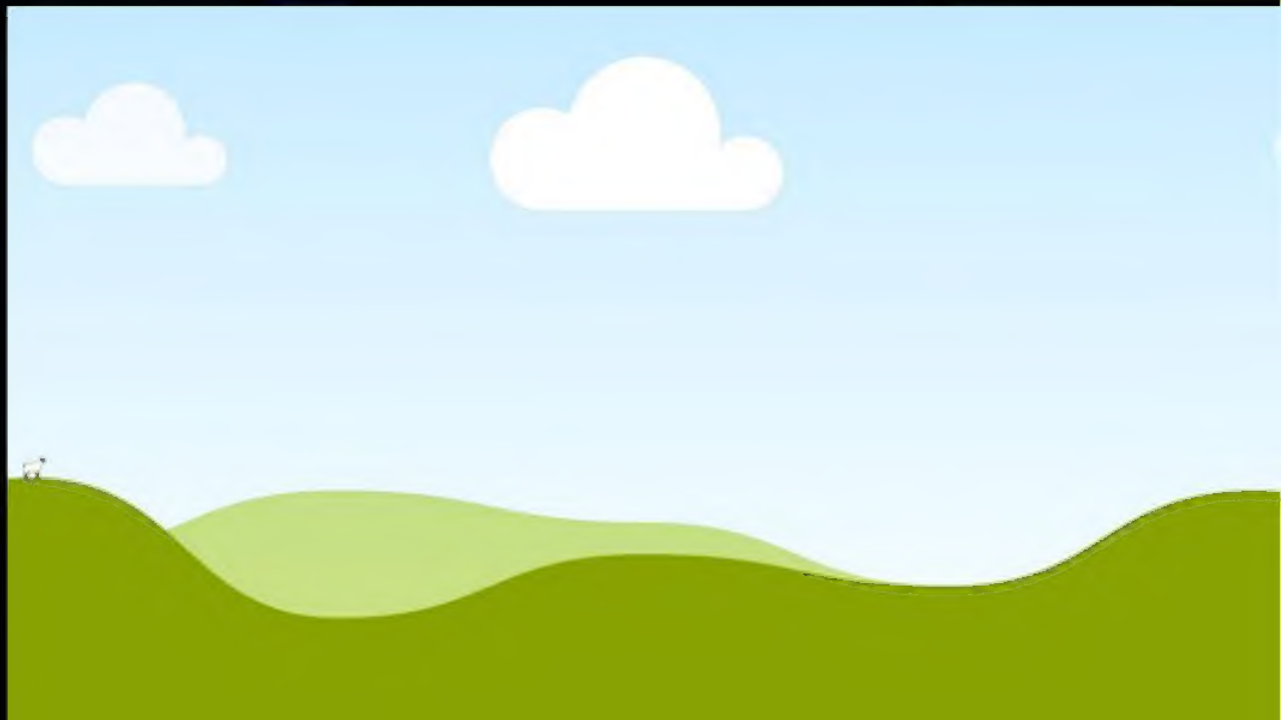
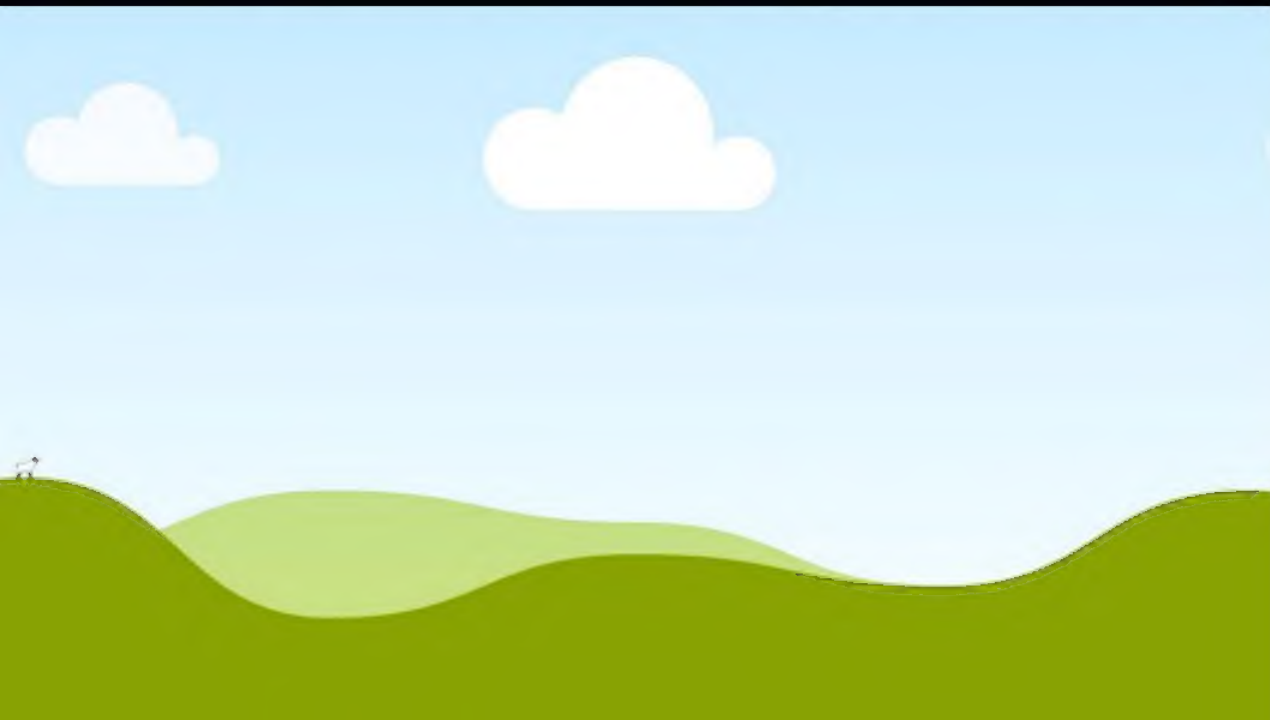
After the sermon:

1. Pastor David will provide some very important biblical instruction about the Lord's Supper.
2. We will have a song of response and an opportunity to prepare our hearts for the Lord's Supper.
3. Our Deacons will serve a Communion Cup to those who indicate they need one by raising their hand.

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP



We invite you to get a Communion Cup
from one of our Lord's Supper tables.



Pastoral Prayer

Ps. 62

A cinematic scene depicting the presentation of Jesus at the temple. Mary, a young woman with long dark hair wearing a blue robe and a red headscarf, holds the infant Jesus wrapped in a white cloth. Joseph, a man with a beard wearing a brown robe and a white headscarf, stands beside her, looking off to the side with a slight smile. They are in a crowd of people dressed in traditional Middle Eastern attire, including robes and head coverings, in a sunlit outdoor setting with a plain wall in the background.

Witnesses to the Savior: Anna

Luke 2:21-35



Written by Mark Lowry

"Mary, Did You Know?"

It's a fair question:
Did Mary know
who her son was?

Answer: No

Being 1st to hear ≠
1st to understand

Luke 1:29 - She was
deeply troubled by this
statement, wondering
what kind of greeting
this could be.

12 yrs. later, at the
Temple (cf. Luke
2:28-50).

One person
who DID
understand
was Anna

After Jesus' birth:

Mary - 40 days
of purification

Family - to
the Temple

Jesus -
1stborn
presented
to the Lord

Mary - Gave
offering

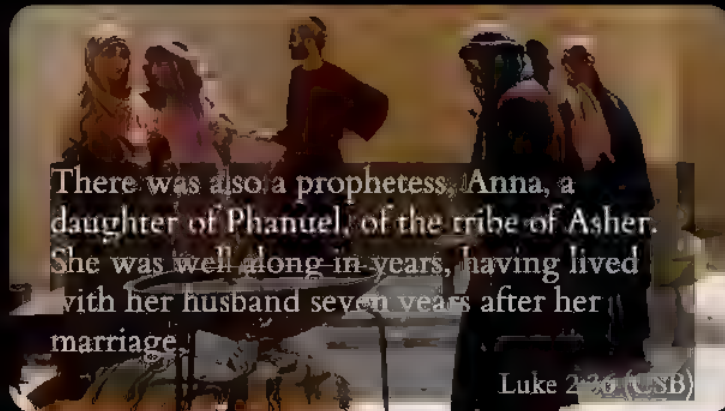
Simeon

Sees Jesus
as the
Messiah

Luke 2:28-32

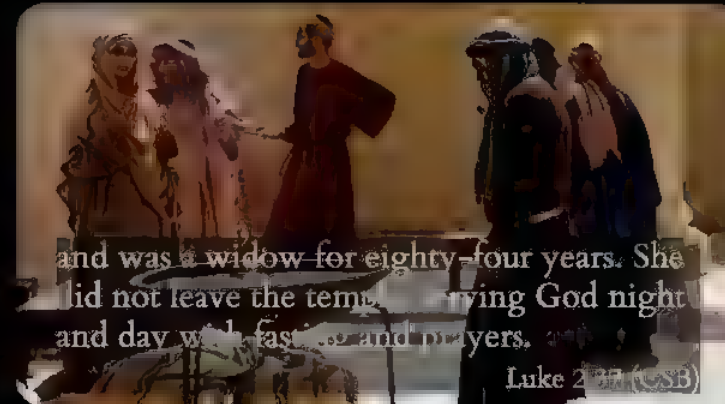
He is prepared
to die

But Anna's
reaction is
different



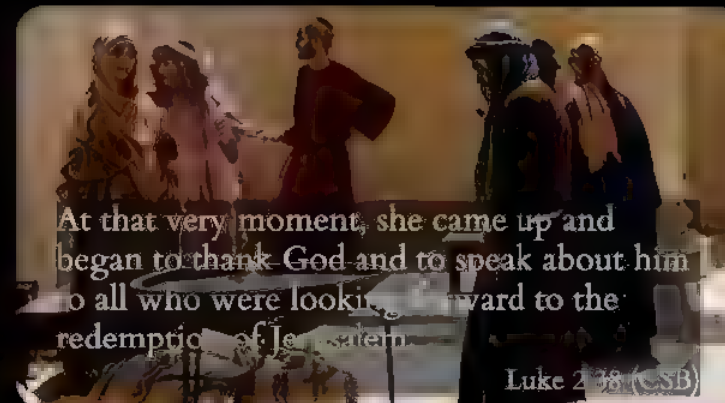
There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage.

Luke 2:26 (CSB)



and was a widow for eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers.

Luke 2:37 (CSB)



At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2:38 (CSB)

Namesake - "Hannah"

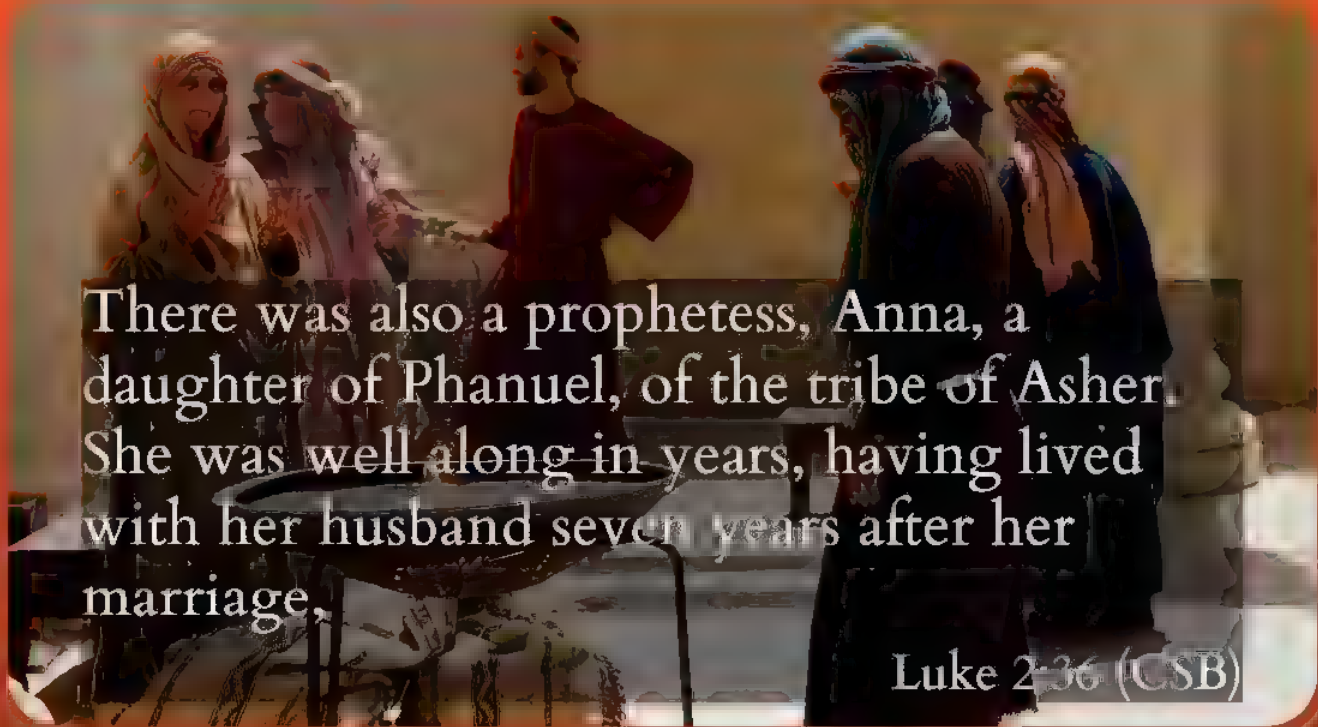
Samuel's mother in the OT

Prayed one of the greatest prayers in all Scripture (Samuel 2)

One of the earliest Hebrew poems in existence

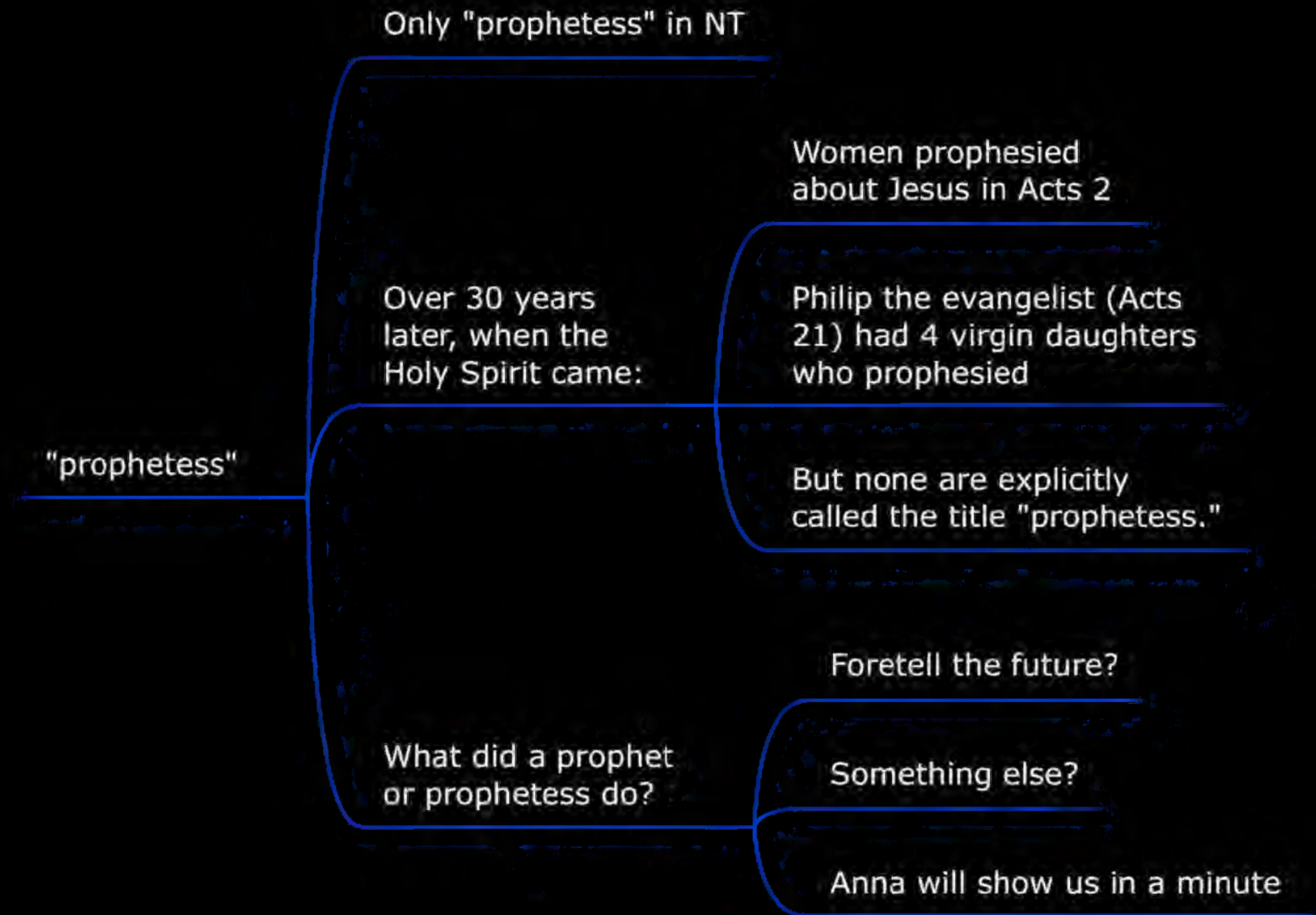
A model of persistence in prayer and surrender to God's will

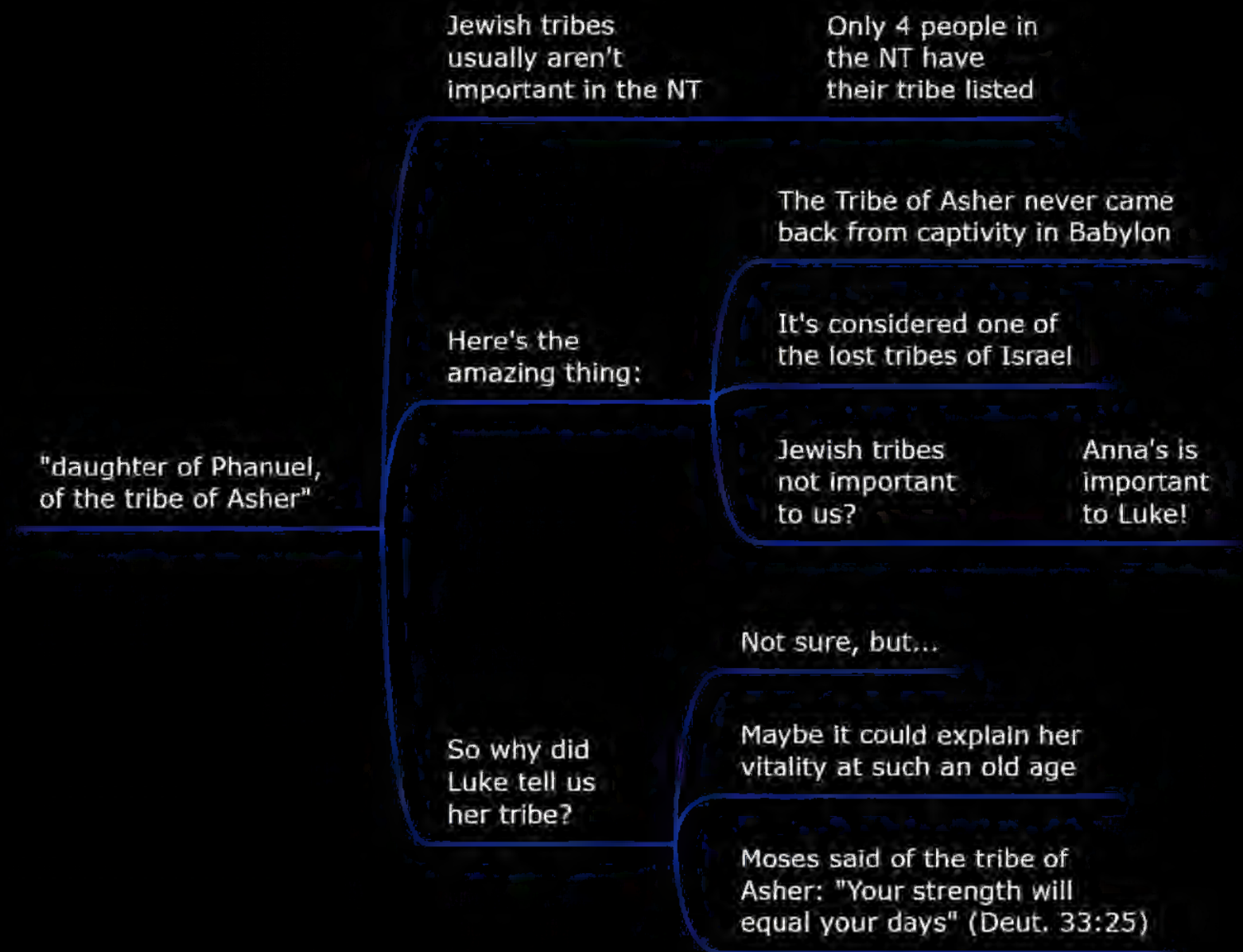
Anna in Luke 2 models this, too



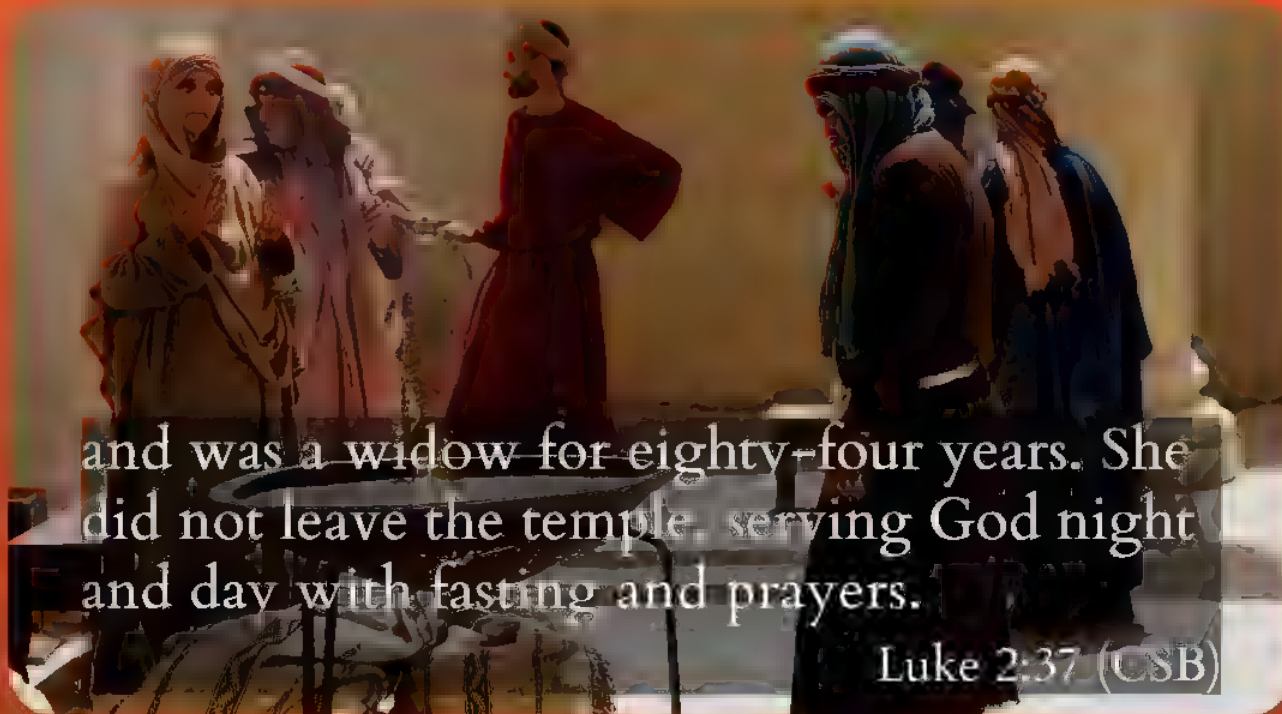
There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage.

Luke 2:36 (CSB)





"She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,"



and was a widow for eighty-four years. She
did not leave the temple, serving God night
and day with fasting and prayers.

Luke 2:37 (CSB)

"and was a widow for eighty-four years."

Married at 14

Widowed at 21

Single until 105

"She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers"

Celibacy is a spiritual
gift that God gives
some Christians

The ideal
example of a
celibate
Christian

When you are single,
you can devote yourself
to God:

I wish that all people were as I am. But each has his own gift from God, one person has this gift, another has that. I say to the unmarried and to widows: It is good for them if they remain as I am.

1 Corinthians 7:7-8 (CSB)

Because of the present distress, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is.... Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. However, if you do get married, you have not sinned, and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But such people will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.

1 Corinthians 7:26-28 (CSB)

I want you to be without concerns. The unmarried man is concerned about the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. But the married man is concerned about the things of the world—how he may please his wife—and his interests are divided.

1 Corinthians 7:32-34a (CSB)

The unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But the married woman is concerned about the things of the world—how she may please her husband.

1 Corinthians 7:34b (CSB)

I am saying this for your own benefit, not to put a restraint on you, but to promote what is proper and so that you may be devoted to the Lord without distraction.

1 Corinthians 7:35 (CSB)

At some point in her
life, Anna remained
in the temple

Now, the temple wasn't like church.

After church, if anyone here
tells me, "I want to stay here
in this building for all my life,"

No.

You've got
to go!

Because this BUILDING
isn't the church

You are!

This BUILDING isn't
the Temple of God

You are!

And so you ARE
like Anna!

She never left the temple?

Neither do you. You
ARE the temple.

The never leaving the temple isn't the part of Anna that we need to get better at.

It's the fasting and prayers.


THAT'S where the power and movement of God is.

If you've gotten away from praying, here's the solution:

Get back at it.

It's not difficult.

It's just a matter of doing.



At that very moment, she came up and
began to thank God and to speak about him
to all who were looking forward to the
redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2:38 (CSB)

Simeon and Anna
make an interesting
story in Luke 2.

Simeon came up to
the temple that day,
but Anna LIVED there

Simeon wasn't called
a prophet, but he
prophesied about
Jesus.

Anna was called a
prophetess, but she
gave thanks about
Jesus.

But here's the
biggest difference
between Simeon
and Anna:

When Simeon saw Jesus,
he said, "I can die now."

But when 105-year-old
Anna saw Jesus, she said,
"I've got to tell somebody."

This is what a prophet or prophetess does:

Reveal truths usually hidden

Anna recognizes who this Child is.

She tells the people of Jerusalem about His significance.

Amos 3:7 - "Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plans to his servants the prophets."

In Acts 2, the people there didn't understand what was happening.

The men and women who prophesied told the crowd about Jesus,

and how God's Spirit had come upon them that day.

Can you imagine?

Being a
faithful Jew
on that day,

Waiting for the
Messiah to come?

Waiting for Jerusalem
to be redeemed?

Waiting for God to
fulfill His promises?

You go into the temple,

to worship God
as you have done
countless times
before.

You are praying
that God might
bring His salvation.

You've seen her many times before.

It seems like she's always at the temple.

But this time, something's different.

And there's Anna:

Anna tells you that God's salvation has come!

As you look around to see, she says, "Right HERE!"

"THIS baby will bring God's salvation to us!"

"This baby is Yahweh is salvation!"

So, what do you do?

Do you believe the word
of this old woman?

A woman so dedicated to
God that she remained
single for over 8 decades?

Or do you think, "Oh, she's
probably just senile," and go about
your worship of God at the temple?

You and I today face
the same issue:

Do we dismiss these words
as the foolish ramblings of
ancient superstitious people?

Or will you say, "I believe"?

Prayer of faith

Brief reflections on 1 Cor. 11

Before we partake of the Lord's Supper,
we will now have a time of response to God.

The altar is open for prayer.

If you have a spiritual decision to make or
need prayer, you may come speak with
Pastor David now or after the service.

Invitation

As we prepare to take the Lord's Supper,
please be seated.

If you need a Communion Cup, please raise
your hand and a Deacon will serve you.

For I received from the Lord what I also
passed on to you: On the night when he was
betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, and
when he had given thanks, broke it, and
said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do
this in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 (CSB)

In the same way also he took the cup, after
supper, and said, "This cup is the new
covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as
you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink
the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until
he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 (CSB)

Don't neglect to do what is good and to
share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.

Hebrews 13:16 (CSB)

Generosity Scripture / Closing